

**Looking back at the week ahead...** *History (TH) [Gorrell, Helen]***T • OCT 20 1985****By Helen J. Gorrell**  
*Special to The Tribune-Star***50 years ago this week...**

Jackson Milsap, 74, 2316 Garfield Ave., was killed instantly at 17th Street and Wabash Avenue when he was struck by an automobile. Milsap stepped from behind a parked truck directly in front of a car, police said.

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The prospect of the new Terre Haute City Hall may go glimmering. Terre Haute stood to lose her federal grant of \$104,000, given as a 45 percent contribution toward a building of the new city hall.

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Asphyxiated by the fumes escaping from a gas stove, Mollie Fehr, 68, was found dead in the kitchen of her home, 1633 S. 13th St. A

neighbor became alarmed when he failed to see the woman moving around her home, and went there and found her body.

**25 years ago this week...**

There is now in Terre Haute another organization that will make its influence felt in constructive efforts. Such was the declaration heard by the members and guests of the newly organized Exchange Club in the Cotillion Room of the Hotel Deming. The statement was part of an address by Earl W. Wayland of Indianapolis. He is president of the Geriatrics Study Panel on Education of the National Exchange Club, during his presentation of the charter to William E. Kipple, president of the new Terre Haute group.

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Robert Paul Gilbert, accused and admitted murderer of Ruby Baker,

was sentenced to life in prison by Circuit Court Judge Herbert R. Criss.

**10 years ago this week...**

Mayor William J. Brighton announced that Brahler Tire Inc. and Ivy Hill Packaging Corp. had both bought property in the Fort Harrison Industrial Park. Brahler of 3122 Wabash Ave. relocated to building T-137 in the park, giving the firm room to expand and increase the number of employees by about 30 people. After two-and one half years of negotiations, Ivy Hill purchased building T-192 for \$184,000, bringing about 300-350 new jobs to the area.

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The first major sidewalk and curb repair program since the Depression began. To be repaired are 56,453 square feet of sidewalk and 3,604 lineal feet of curbs. The project was funded with a part of

a \$385,000 grant from the federal government through the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

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The ISU Board of Trustees approved the 1976-1977 legislative appropriation requests for both Terre Haute and Evansville campuses. Terre Haute requested \$30,498,979, up \$5,672,381 from in 1975-1976 year. The Evansville campus requested \$4,214,281, an increase of \$1,275,566.

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Mayor William J. Brighton said there is not another city in Indiana that can brag of raising the tax rate only 6 cents over the last four years — a period of great inflation. Brighton said every other second class city had increased taxes more than 6 cents. He was responding to a commentary in the Terre Haute Star, which had pointed out the increase. He was also up for reelection at the time.

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Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

## Looking back at the week ahead... History (TH) Community Affairs File

By Helen J. Gorrell  
Special to The Tribune-Star

### 50 years ago this week...

Not quite a year old, one of Terre Haute's major industries, the Merchant's Distilling Corp., has rapidly gained national prominence in its own field. Starting production December 1934, with not quite 3,000 gallons a day, the company, by the end of October 1935 was producing 16,000 gallons of whiskey and spirits daily. By the end of the first year the company was expected to increase to 20,000 gallons daily.

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Catherine Welsh of 1425 First Ave. was advised by cable that she had drawn a lucky number in the Irish Hospital Sweepstakes at Dublin, carrying an award of \$1,825. The award is hers regardless of how the horse she drew, Filip, finished — first, second, or third — in the race to be run at New Castle, England. Mrs. Welsh held ticket 34404 and was one of

565 lucky winners in America. She had purchased the ticket through a sister in Dublin.

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The City Council took action indicating it would go ahead with the city hall plans, if the work was taken out of the hands of Mayor Sam Beecher and placed in charge of the government engineers that were available for directing PWA and WPA projects.

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After more than four weeks of negotiations the joint wage scale committee of the Indiana Coal Operators Association and District Number 11 United Mine Workers of America reached an agreement in the wage scale and working conditions of Indiana's union shaft mines.

### 25 years ago this week...

Proposed construction of a new student union building at Indiana State Teachers College costing about \$300,000 and including an enlarged bookstore area was announced along with some \$3,150,000 worth of future im-

provements during the regular monthly meeting of the ISTC board.

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Representatives of the State Board of Tax Commissioners cut 4.7 cents from the Vigo County tax rate during the initial session of a two-day review of the 1961 rates and budgets for all county taxing units. This set the rate at \$1.28 per \$100 assessed valuation, approved by the Vigo County Tax Adjustment Board.

### 10 years ago this week...

Bids were opened for the construction of a nature center at John G. Dobbs Memorial Grove Park, as a part of the city's plan to convert the park into an environmental education center and to comply with the will in which the land was donated to the city.

The terms were: that the park be named "John G. Dobbs Memorial Grove"; that no charge to be made for entrance, exit or use to be made; and that the park be used for park purposes and for the planting of trees and shrubbery. The will also

required that if the conditions were not met the land would revert to the owner.

Patrick Daugherty, park and recreation department superintendent, said that former Mayor Leland Larrison had developed the park into a campground and charged admission to the area. To correct the mistake, the current administration had removed the campgrounds from the park and was taking the first steps in establishing the nature center.

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Sewer service was provided for 98 percent of the homes in Terre Haute after completion of a major sewer project of the Terre Haute Board of Sanitary Commissioners.

The sewer project included additions, extension and repair to the sewage disposal system of the sanitary district, the purchase of some existing sewers, extensions and repairs of that system and construction of new sewers in 12 areas:

(1) Wheeler Avenue and 21st Street project, bounded by Margaret Avenue, 19th Street, Helen Avenue and 22nd Street; (2)

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Kussner Street and 25th Street project, bounded by 25th Street, Dimmick Avenue, Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroads and Shields Avenue; (3) Stratford Hill project, bounded by Margaret Avenue, Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroads, Dimmick Heights Subdivision and 37th Street; (4) College Avenue, 34th Street project, bounded by College Avenue, Brown Avenue, Crawford Street and the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroads; (5) Deming Woods Subdivision; (6) Edgewood Estates Project, bounded by Maple Avenue, Fruitridge and Lost Creek.

Also: (7) Virginia Dels Project, bounded by Haythorne Avenue, 34th Street, Berne Avenue and Kesler Avenue; (8) 26th Street and Fort Harrison Road Project, bounded by 25th Street, Fort Harrison Road, Penn Central Railroad and Lost Creek; (9) 21st Street and Fort Harrison Project, bounded by Lafayette Avenue, Fort Harrison Road, Louisville and Nashville Railroad and Lost Creek; (10) 11th Street and Fort Harrison Road Project, bounded by U.S. 41,

Fort Harrison Road, 13th Street and Florida Avenue; (11) Delaware Avenue Project, bounded by Lafayette Avenue, Lost Creek, Louisville and Nashville Railroad and North Avenue; and (12) First Street and Maiden Lane Project, bounded by Third Street, Eighth Avenue, First Street and Linden Street.

The estimated cost for the project was \$1,725,000 and was not to exceed \$2,500,000. The project was funded by the sale of bonds, not by city taxes.

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Large soybean and corn crops in the Wabash Valley, combined with the shortage of railroad cars used to ship the grain out of the area, caused serious storage problems for local grain elevators.

The concentrated harvesting of the farms resulted in long lines at the elevators, with some farmers waiting four and five hours to dump their grain.

One grain elevator owner said the storage situation might be eased if the Wabash River were navigable, so that barges could carry grain out of the valley.



# Looking back at the week ahead...

Community Affairs File

History (TH)

T 3 NOV 3 1985

## 50 years ago this week...

The straightening, clearing, widening and dredging of 6 1/4 miles of Lost Creek started as another WPA project, in a drive to place as many men as possible in work. The project was sponsored by the Vigo County Commissioners and provided work for 312 men for six months. The entire cost of the project — \$166,325 — was met by the federal government.

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Proposed sites for the new city hall were discussed in a caucus meeting between members of the City Council, Board of Public Works and Safety, and Mayor Sam Beecher. Sites mentioned included Steeg Park, Dresser Drive, Hooks School, Wabash Avenue between Water and First streets, 19th and Poplar streets and the present site. A check of records showed that the properties at Steeg Park and Dresser Drive were given to the city with the stipulation that they be used only for parks.

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The Woody Tavern, south of Terre Haute on U.S. 41, burned. The fire was discovered at 1:23 a.m. Terre Haute Fire Department's No. 2 Pumper Co. was sent to the scene. The lake adjacent to the tavern was the water supply, but the flames had gained so much

headway that they could not be checked.

The Woody Tavern had for several years been one of the show places of Vigo County. Shrubbery, flowers, trees and artificial lake added to the beauty of the property and made Woody Tavern an institution.

Mr. and Mrs. Woody were occupying a small bungalow near the main house and were awakened by the fire.

Early reports showed the fire was started by faulty wiring in the attic.

## 25 years ago this week...

Sam Rayburn, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, paid a brief visit to Terre Haute seeking support for the Democratic party in the November election.

Speaking at the Terre Haute's Kiwanis Club luncheon, Rayburn said that in his 47 years in Washington it had been clear that the average man and woman in the United States was better off under a Democratic administration than a Republican.

The veteran Texas legislator also endorsed Congressman Fred Wampler, Democratic candidate for reelection, who was his host during Rayburn's visit to Terre Haute.

☆☆☆

The third bomb scare in a week at Indiana State Teachers College caused administrative officials to order all buildings emptied.

City and campus police officers and local firefighters searched the building for the threatened explosive. None was found.

Some 5,000 students and several hundred instructors and other persons were locked out of the 17 buildings during the 90-minute search.

The scare was touched off by a telephone message received by the administration building switchboard operator at 9:30 a.m.

An assistant superintendent of buildings and grounds said the caller said, "Listen, I am only going to say this once. Within 45 minutes there is going to be a bomb explode on your campus somewhere."

Alarms immediately went out to the police and fire departments, and all buildings on campus were contacted.

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Bids for the remodeling of Sarah Scott Junior High School were advertised, according to the action of the Terre Haute City School Board.

The trustees also authorized the advertising of the bids for the construction of the new Crawford and Terre Town elementary

schools.

Max P. Gabbart, superintendent of schools, informed the board that the State Board of Tax Commissioners had already been approved the Sarah Scott site and acquisition of land. The land to be added was located at 930 Grant St.

## 10 years ago this week...

An explosion and fire overnight killed the elderly resident of a small frame house on Locust Street, and brought property damage topping \$15,000.

Alec Meseah, 71, retired coal miner, reportedly lived alone in the house, 716 Locust St., died in Union Hospital at about 12:50 a.m. A hospital spokesman said the victim suffered burns over 75 percent of his body.

His home on the northside of Locust Street was tucked between an alley at midpoint in the block and the home of Mrs. Inez Baker. Meseah's home was destroyed in the fire and blast with the front part of the building flattened.

There was no apparent fire damage to the Norton home, but the west side of the house showed broken siding and smashed windows and debris from the Meseah home filled the alley way. Parts of that house had also been blown into Locust Street.



## Looking back at the week ahead...

History (TH)

NOV 13 1985

By Helen J. Gorrell

Special to The Tribune-Star

Community Affairs File

### 50 years ago this week...

Seventeen years ago, thousands of American doughboys dug their way out of trenches of foreign soil and thankfully received the news of the signing of the armistice, which marked the end of World War I.

Those boys of yesterday, now full grown men representing a cross-section of the nation, celebrated the anniversary of that memorable day. Thousands in Terre Haute and the Wabash Valley joined with those ex-servicemen to pay tribute to those who served and those killed in action.

☆☆☆

The City Council and Board of Works and Safety agreed to build a new city hall at its present location. It was reported that four members of the council held out for putting the building in Steeg Park and the remaining five favored the present site at Fourth and Walnut streets.

### 25 years ago this week...

Fresh green trees sprung up on Wabash Avenue during the night. Workers and shoppers were surprised and pleased to find small flat trees planted in small green tubs along the main street at regular intervals from Third to Ninth streets and again from 11th to 14th streets.

This greenery was provided by the Downtown Business Association with the cooperation of the Central Eastside Association. They were to be a part of the Christmas decorations on the Avenue with multi-colored lights adorning them after Thanksgiving. After the holidays, the trees were to remain to add color and warmth to the downtown area.

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A convicted murderer, Thomas Whitaker, pleaded guilty to three separate charges of second-degree murder in an appearance before Circuit Court Judge Herbert R. Criss. The judge placed separate life sentences on each of the three charges.

Whitaker, 35, Terre Haute, was convicted in 1958 of the charges of the shotgun slaying of his daughter, Regina, 9. He was subsequently given the death penalty but was granted a new trial by the

Indiana Supreme Court, which ruled that the trial court erred by allowing the jury to separate during the trial and before a verdict was returned.

During his court appearance, Whitaker pleaded guilty to the murder of his former wife, Alma Martin, his daughter, and his son, Jack, 11, who were cut down in bursts of shotgun fire at the Stewart Martin home, west of West Terre Haute.

### 10 years ago this week...

Winds of more than 70 miles per hour from a tornado caused extensive damage on the southside of Terre Haute, taking the roof off of one business, shattering numerous plate-glass windows and felling trees throughout the area.

Only three minor injuries were reported. Biggest damage was at Honey Creek Square and on Margaret Avenue, from Fifth to Seventh streets.

The Corral Trailer Court, 503 Margaret Ave., suffered the most damage. Two trailers were destroyed, and most of the 30 homes suffered glass breakage and damage to the foundations, Vigo County deputy sheriff Joe Marvel said.

Damage to the Honey Creek Square area was extensive. The roof of the Sirloin Stockade was blown off and 54 windows were broken out at the Regal "8" Inn.

Windows were blown out at the Sears Store and the Great Scot grocery, and there also was water damage from leaking roofs.

Another hard-hit area was near Seventh Street and Margaret Avenue, where a large power line went down at 2 a.m. blacking out a large part of the city's southside, extending as far south as Farmersburg.

At Seventh and Margaret, Bohannon's Restaurant had several glass windows broken and the front door ripped off. The Bower Rowe Liquor Store received extensive damage, as did the Strohe's Marina.

Four large Goodwill deposit boxes were blown into South Seventh Street and litter forced police to close many streets between Fourth and Seventh near Margaret Avenue. Police patrolled the area throughout the early morning hours to prevent looting.

At Hulman Field the winds reportedly tossed several small planes around and caused some damage.

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Vigo County Public Library

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

## Looking back at the week ahead... History (HH) T's NOV 17 1985

Community Affairs File  
By Helen J. Gorrell  
Special to The Tribune-Star

### 50 years ago this week ...

In a short caucus, from which news reporters were excluded, Mayor Sam Beecher asked the city council to allow Thomas Pierce of Indianapolis, a municipal ownership promoter, to investigate the financial status of the Terre Haute Water Works Corp.

Councilmen told the mayor that the investigation could be made by Pierce in the event that there would be no charges for his services. Pierce stated that the work would be done free. It was understood that Pierce was trying to interest the city to buy the waterworks plant.

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Charges of second-degree murder were filed against Frank Jones, 41, 315 Tippecanoe St., in connection with the death of Lewis Fagg of West Terre Haute.

Fagg died in St. Anthony Hospital as a result of head injuries sustained at Jones' home on Oct. 12.

Although injured, Fagg continued working until Oct. 30 when he became ill and was removed to St. Anthony Hospital where it was found he had sustained a fractured skull.

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The Terre Haute Brewing Co., announced the purchase of controlling interest in the A.B.C.

Brewing Corp., of St. Louis.

A.B.C. was one of the largest brewing companies in St. Louis and its product would continue to be sold under its present brand name.

It was not intended to relocate any part of the activities of the local plant to St. Louis and it was expected that the operation of the A.B.C. plant would materially increase the employment of the local brewery.

### 25 years ago this week ...

An extensive construction program at Hulman Field costing more than \$750,000 in extending and improving runway conditions, already in progress, still needs congressional approval. Lt. William E. Schmidt, flying training supervisor for the 113th Tactical Fighter Squadron based at Hulman Field, recently represented the base at a Washington, D.C. conference.

### 10 years ago this week ...

A total of \$12,000 to the Vigo County Nursing Association for the Infant Care Feeding Program was included in five appropriations totaling \$41,000 passed by the Terre Haute City Council.

The appropriated gift will be used to help the association purchase formula for babies whose parents are financially incapable and represents a third such donation to the program by the city council.

# Looking back at week ahead...

Community Affairs File  
By Helen J. Gorren  
Special to The Tribune-Star

## History (FH) 50 years ago this week...

Is NOV 24 1935

Prosecutor Raymond Kearns went to City Police headquarters and served notice that if Mayor Sam Beecher and the police wanted to make a blue-law town out of Terre Haute, he would have no part in it.

Kearns' wrath was stirred by an attempt by the police to secure a warrant against a beer dealer for having a neon beer advertising sign in her place of business.

The case of Alisa Brown, operator of a tavern at 1365 Poplar St., was brought into City Court. She was charged with violation of the 1935 Liquor Control Act by displaying a neon beer sign facing the street in her place of business.

Judge Duffy asked the prosecutor if an affidavit had been prepared. Deputy Prosecutor Bauer said the prosecutor's office had refused to file an affidavit because the charge was not in violation of the Liquor Control Act.

Community Affairs File

## 25 years ago this week...

A new highway route leading to Clinton and a four-lane bypass of U.S. 41 through Terre Haute should ease traffic congestion and provide a better traffic condition for the future.

The bypass is more than half-completed. The new route to Clinton is on the state highway department's work schedule until 1962.

Meanwhile, the interstate route to Indianapolis is somewhat more uncertain. The work in Terre Haute area was scheduled to begin in the summer of 1961. That part of the project could take three years.

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Public Service Indiana presented its new \$7 million Wabash River generating station — located north of Terre Haute on the west side of the Wabash River — for a two-day open house.

PSI chairman Robert A. Gallagher said the purpose of the open house was to allow customers to see a modern electric generating station in action and to view at close range its costly and complex equipment.

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James C. Knight, 23, Russellville, Ky., accused of killing James R. Garner, New York, during a prison dinner hour, was judged incapable of appearing for trial.

Knight was charged in the first-degree murder in connection with the slaying. He was committed to the custody of the U.S. Attorney General's office and was admitted for treatment at the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners at Springfield, Mo.

Federal Judge William Streckler handed down the decision on Knight after three court-appointed Indianapolis psychologists testified that the accused was mentally incompetent.

### 10 years ago this week...

Vigo Circuit Court Judge C. Joseph Anderson said that the county's judges and county commissioners had reached a tentative agreement on where to provide space for two new county courts that will come into existence in January 1976.

The final decision to appropriate the necessary funds is up to the seven-member Vigo County Council.

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An early morning fire in a mobile home in Riley claimed the life of an elderly woman. Dead was Mrs. Halley E. Streeter, 92, Route 25, Riley.

She was the second elderly person to die in a home fire in as many weeks.

Two weeks earlier, 71-year-old Alec Meseah, 716 Locust St., died as a result of fire and explosion that destroyed his small frame house.

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A local landmark scheduled for demolition — the old ice house at the "Y" end of Cherry Street — moved close to oblivion after being the site of a third fire in a month.

## Looking back at the week ahead...

By Helen J. Gorrell  
Special to The Tribune-Star

### 50 years ago this week

More than 50 performers, from tiny tots to grown professionals, did their bit in the annual Tribune-Star Christmas Frolics at the Hippodrome Theatre, to build up a fund with which to bring Christmas Cheer to hundreds of needy Terre Haute families on Christmas day.

Twenty select voices from the roster of the minstrel club of Terre Haute presented four popular tunes as their part of the Frolics. The chorus and soloist appeared under the personal direction of Carl C. Jones.

### 25 years ago this week...

The Terre Haute City School

Board met in special session and awarded contracts amounting to \$1,186,776. Of this amount, \$716,262 covered the additions and remodeling of Sarah Scott Jr. High School. The rest was to be used for the construction of the new Crawford Elementary School.

### 10 years ago this week...

Final steps in the lengthy process of determining the tax rates for 1976 for Vigo County's many government units was conducted at the Courthouse by representatives of the State Board of Tax Commissioners. Tentative rates had been decided by the 70-member tax adjustment board the second week in September.

Two men carrying revolvers entered the Terre Haute Pizza Hut restaurant and threatened to shoot the employees and customers if

they did not turn over all their valuables. As a result, the two escaped with an undetermined amount of money from the cash register, and with amounts ranging from \$3 and \$170 plus jewelry from the customers.

A preliminary charge of first-degree murder was filed against a former Indiana State University student in connection with the shooting of an ISU counseling psychologist.

Appearing in Vigo County Circuit Court was Marcia Gingrich, 19. She was arrested after William J. Carson Jr., 34, was shot and killed at the Student Counseling Center at the ISU Student Health Center.

Carson was shot in the lower abdomen with a hand gun, believed to be a 22-caliber, and was pronounced dead on arrival at Union Hospital by Vigo County Deputy Coroner George Kearns.

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Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

## Looking back at the week ahead... History (TH)

Community Affairs File  
Ts DEC 15 1985  
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By Helen J. Gorrell  
Special to The Tribune-Star

### 50 years ago this week...

Total tonnage of coal mined underground in the United States in 1935 was 335 million. Of this amount 18 million tons, or 3 percent, was mechanically loaded. These figures showed the inroads that oil and gas have made in the industry and were revealed during the winter meeting of the Indiana coal miners institute in Terre Haute.

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Two bandits held up John D. Royer, 1501 S. 11th St., secretary-

treasurer of the Home Packing Co., as he entered a garage at the plant, First and Chestnut streets, shortly before noon. They forced Royer into a refrigerated truck near the garage door and robbed him of approximately \$4,000 in cash and checks. About \$1,000 of the amount stolen was in currency. Royer had left the company office with the money, intended for deposit in the bank. As he entered the company garage to get a car, he was confronted by the two masked men, one carrying a pistol and the other a sawed-off shotgun.

### 25 years ago this week...

Truck driver Thomas Whitaker, sentenced to life in prison when he renewed guilty pleas to three charges of second-degree murder in the slayings of his former wife and the couple's two young children, was returned to Michigan City and the Indiana State Prison.

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A total of 8,903,000 pieces of mail passed through the post office in the first 18 days of December, with only a minimum amount of extra help being used to process it. Postmaster Frank Miklozek complimented local residents for their cooperation in mailing early and sorting local and out-of-town mail.

☆☆☆

Brig. Gen. Allyson Maxwell, Chief of Staff of the Indiana Air National Guard, was appointed to command the 113rd Tactical Fighter Squadron at Hulman Field. Gen. Maxwell succeeds Lt. Col. George Myers, who resigned after completing almost 20 years in the Air Force.

### 10 years ago this week...

The deaths of two men in the Vigo County Jail last week were ruled suicide by Deputy Coronor George Kearns.

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After years of urging that a

navigation study be conducted of the Wabash River from the Ohio River to Terre Haute, local officials of the Wabash Valley Association and the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission had a real break through.

A House-Senate Conference Committee restored \$100,000 to the Federal Appropriation Bill for the navigation study to Terre Haute. An earlier Senate version of the bill authorized the study only from Mount Carmel, Ill., south to the Ohio River.

The conference committee restored the original study to extend from Terre Haute south, as a lobbying group from the Wabash Valley Association had urged in congressional testimony last May.



# Looking back at the week ahead... History (TH)

Community Affairs File

DEC 22 1965

By Helen J. Gorrell  
Special to The Tribune-Star

## 50 years ago this week...

Alfred Hoare, a grocer, 874 Lafayette Ave., was robbed, kidnapped and assaulted at Seelyville about 5 p.m., and was left in a semi-conscious condition.

He wandered east on the Pennsylvania Railroad for some distance before recovering consciousness. Hoare had stopped in the Green Lantern Tavern in Seelyville for lunch and for a visit with the proprietor.

Hoare left the place and went outside where he was accosted by a robber who thrust a revolver at him and demanded that he accompany him. Hoare said the man forced him to go through the viaduct in the south end of Seelyville. Hoare said the man struck him on the head with the revolver and knocked him unconscious. The robber got about \$22 for his efforts.

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Vandals entered and ransacked two mausoleums at Woodlawn Cemetery Saturday night, according to reports made to police Monday afternoon by Monroe Wilson, cemetery superintendent. It was believed by police that the vandals were seeking jewelry that might be on the bodies in the mausoleums.

## 25 years ago this week...

Appointment of Carl E. "Bart" Garrett, 45, a 22-year veteran of low-rent housing experience to head the local public housing program, was announced by Dr. Iverson Bell, secretary of the Terre Haute Housing Authority. Bell said that Barrett had been assistant technical advisor of the Toledo Housing Authority and was to assume his duties Dec. 27.

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Police investigated the activities of a man who reportedly spent \$700

for clothing for a girl who accompanied him while on a shopping spree. He was held in jail after police apprehended him in a store where he purchased apparel for an 18-year-old girl, his second female companion in two days.

The suspect had been spending \$100 bills in downtown stores, when his yuletide spirit was interrupted. Police wondered how he had come by the money he was spending so freely. Store detectives became suspicious when he again toured the store a second time and was cashing \$100 bills while outfitting the second girl.

## 10 years ago this week...

Changes in state laws concerning teacher contracts bargaining, school finance, teachers rights and teacher retirement were the major priorities in the Indiana State Teachers Association legislative program, according to ISTA chief lobbyist Robert McGuile.

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Richard White, former press secretary and administrative aide to Indianapolis Mayor Richard Lugar, was appointed executive director of the West Central Indiana Economic Development District in Terre Haute. The appointment of White to the top post at WCIEDD offices followed an 11-month search. White, 27, began his duties immediately after his selection to the post.

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Two county officials said that the extension of the deadline to Feb. 15, 1976, for county and township assessors to contract to appraisal firms would have little or no effect on the reassessment in Vigo County.

The reassessment would not have begun on Jan. 1, anyway, because no money had been appropriated, auditor Frank G. Walker stated. Sam Crandell, county assessor, noted that the 12 township assessors had voted several months ago to do the reassessments themselves.

Vigo County Public Library

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# Art group broadens scope, disbands to form new union

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the final of three installments on the Terre Haute Decorative Art Society.

By Lois Harris  
Vigo County Public Library

Especially in the early years all could agree members of the Terre Haute Decorative Art Society wished to create works of art to beautify their homes and to display during annual receptions.

At the eighth annual reception at the Terre Haute House, the caliber of works shown was high. In an article for the Gazette, Sue Ball wrote that Amalia Kussner, "whose works meet with flattering prices in purchasers both in the Atlantic and Pacific sea board cities, exhibits as her crowning piece an exquisite miniature portrait of a child's head painted on ivory."

To send their works to Indianapolis, New Orleans and other distant places was not appealing to all of the ladies. But led by Sue Ball, they could be persuaded. In another decision, in 1888, the less venturesome faction prevailed. They turned down an invitation to join the Federation of Women's Clubs, "preferring to have the Society remain as it is, merely a social club."

By 1891 attendance at regular meetings had fallen off. Alarmed, the ladies spoke of organization renewal and suggested a change of meeting time with refreshments optional. Still, one is not prepared for the burst of energy that followed the April 18 meeting, when after "an expression of opinion by each member present, it was moved by Miss Ball and seconded by Mrs. Morris that the Decorative Art Society be merged with the Art Association of Terre Haute. The vote was unanimous."

Included in the minutes is a clipping from the Gazette, Sue's article informing the community that the society is to disband to join the prospective art association, "in which field they hope to enlarge the scope of work."

Unleashed in the article are ambitions never hinted at in the

minutes of almost a decade. "From eight charter members the society grew to its present proportions and has paved the way for the more comprehensive association now to be formed. The ladies voted to turn what funds they have in the treasury over to the new organization. It seemed to be the unanimous opinion that a building similar to the Propylaeum in Indianapolis should be built and that it should be commenced this season. It is something so new for women to originate and conduct such an enterprise, without the aid of any male man that the charm of novelty will in itself commend the movement to many."

Mrs. Haberly already had several lots in view. The public was to be invited to suggest a suitable name for the building. The ladies could already envision "a picturesque edifice rented out at twenty-five dollars per night for a year in advance."

It comes as a shock after all this to read in the May minutes of the society that the ladies had committed a parliamentary blunder at that historic April meeting. The secretary discreetly explains, "Some of the ladies object to the action taken at Mrs. Morris' on the ground that it was not constitutional."

Mrs. Morris hastened to correct the error by making a motion, seconded by Miss Tuell, "that the proceedings of the former meeting be considered null and void." The vote was carried by a small majority. Without a recorded murmur the society planned the next meeting when Miss Blake would read her paper on stained glass.

For several pages of minutes, the society has apparently settled back into its cozy routine. The program for the coming year is inserted and includes wide-ranging projects for study.

At the final meeting of the 1890-91 season, in June, Mrs. Haberly "tendered her resignation. It was accepted with great regret as she had for so many years been president and had done so much to keep up the interest and work by

her own enthusiastic example."

Kate Ijams resigned in October. The society's November hope that the "meetings will be better attended in the future and that winter may infuse new life and interest into the organization" was dashed the following spring when Sue Ball resigned. The ladies were stunned, "deciding unanimously not to allow it."

So end the minutes of the Decorative Art Society. It was not the end of the affiliation. In a bold hand Sue wrote on the cover of a new book: "Records of the Terre Haute Art Association, Susan W. Ball, Secretary, 1891."

Mrs. Haberly along with Sue attended the first meeting of the new group which immediately began the task of writing a constitution modeled after the constitution of the Indianapolis Art Association.

The scope of the association was to be broad indeed. It sought "the cultivation and advancement of Art," with the special aim of establishing a permanent art museum in the city of Terre Haute. To that end it would "give exhibitions, provide lectures and purchase works of art." Membership would be open to all the community with annual, life and honorary memberships. A 21-member board of directors was created to be the ruling body.

First business of the board was to elect a president. Mrs. Haberly was chosen on the first ballot. "She expressed her appreciation of the honor but declined to serve, stating that she thought it best for the interests of the association, at least during its infancy, to have a man at the helm."

Mr. J. M. Duncan became first president, but in the program for 1892-93, under a list of officers, president Frances M. Haberly's name stands at the head. Susan W. Ball is recording secretary.

Not only wives, daughters and sisters of prominent men in the city became members of the Art Association. The prominent men themselves joined and helped turn it into a major civic undertaking.

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Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library



# Civil War stopped early county fairs

1 JUL 7 1985

When the Vigo Agricultural Society took over the land on the west side of Seventh Street (a county road) north of what is now Maple Avenue on May 1, 1859, the trustees were George W. Bement, Thomas P. Murray and Marvin M. Hickox.

Subscribers to the land purchase were William Paddock, William Balding, Jacob Jackson, E. Warren Chadwick, Ralph L. Thompson, William R. McKeen, Blackford B. Moffatt, William D. Ladd, Samuel McKeen, Cornelius Smock, Anthony M. Ostrander, William H. Stewart and Samuel Paddock.

Also, David Cusick, Edward B. Allen, Harvey W. Allen, Clark S. Tuttle, Simeon Wolfe, John J. Brake, Henry Fairbanks, Edwin Gartrell, Ormond Barbour, Levi G. Warren, A. E. Taylor, Joseph H. Blake, Luther Miller, Milton Rogers and J. W. Shepherd.

Also, Norman T. Wells, Harvey D. Scott, William B. Tuell, Patrick Shannon, John Bell, Moses Van Stoy, John C. Kester, J. Kester Sr., Alfred B. Begg, Richard W. Thompson, Chambers Y. Patterson, Thomas F. Wells, Robert S. Cox Jr., William Hall, Samuel Conner, Alexander Conner, John D. Chestnut, Corey Barbour and John Kizer.

Each shareholder agreed to pay Demas Deming a little over \$50 an acre for the land in three yearly installments. The group leased the land to the Society for seven years as a fairgrounds, but the agreement was not filed until July 11, 1861, about the time the army took over and quartered troops there during the Civil War.

The horse barns were converted into barracks and the racetrack was taken over for drilling the recruits prior to sending them south to the battle areas.

Fairs were discontinued for the duration, but there are records of meetings there in 1865 and 1866. By 1865 Brake had acquired 42 shares from the trustees, Hickox held three, and six others held one share each. This seems to have been the beginning of the end, but the fall fair was held there Sept. 20-23.

## Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark  
Special to The Tribune-Star

Jonas Seeley exhibited apples; George Kerkhoff, peaches; and D. E. Agar, beets, eggplant, tomatoes, parsnips, carrots, etc. Blankets, jeans and woolen yarns were exhibited by George Ellis; photographs by A. R. Miller; paintings by Mr. Wright; a cage of 49 canaries by Mrs. Jacob Miller, and a cage of 15 by Mrs. Chapman of the Clark House.

C. O. Lincoln operated one of his Superior sewing machines for the benefit of the curious. Mrs. Hussey showed two quilts, one a replica of an Odd Fellows chart complete with all emblems and mottoes, the other a Master Mason's carpet with all design emblems.

Miss Pepper showed a rag rug and a hair wreath. Mrs. York showed her thread lace, while Mrs. J. C. Walter exhibited millinery. G. B. Duy exhibited shoes and slippers for ladies, while boots and shoes from Doll & Mann attracted much attention.

Mrs. E. S. Hussey of Brazil exhibited beautiful dahlias; Mrs. Joseph Grover displayed cactus, tuberose, verbenas, salvia and roses, as well as a pomegranate tree with three developed fruits.

A set of harness from Slaughter & Watkins and a side saddle from Legg & Co. of Paris competed with pork barrels and kegs from the shops of Gilman and his rival, Scott. Tindal A. Madison exhibited a patented washing machine (hand-powered); Kerkhoff & Co. showed leather from their tannery at Lockport, and S. Wolfe & Co. displayed a variety of stoves, reapers, mowers and harvesters in competition with a line shown by Uriah Shewmaker & Co. A Bullock Mowing Machine from Jamestown, N.Y., aroused much local interest.

The horse races came in for a great deal of attention, but the news reporter was not impressed. He saw "nothing under three minutes."

Following the sale of the fairgrounds to Mr. Brake, there is some doubt as to just what happened, but records show the Vigo County Agricultural Association was incorporated Nov. 30, 1867, for \$10,000 divided into \$25 shares.

Holding 10 shares were John Weir, Thomas Dowling, Joseph Gilbert, John Haney, James Hook, Harvey D. Scott, William R. McKeen, J. H. Hager, Demas Deming, R. S. Cox, J. Cook & Son, Lucius Ryce and C. W. Brabour.

Also, William Patrick, John Jackson, Jacob Ryman, C. C. Smock, Thomas C. Pugh, John S. Beach, Origen B. Soules, Hiram Smith, Theron Sutcliffe, Elias Cummins, Preston Hussey, J. H. McMurtie and Warren Soules.

Holding five shares were Anthony M. Ostrander, Isaac T. Mills, Silas Price, Leonard H. Mahan, and those with four shares were William R. Hunter and A. B. Fouts. Owners of two shares each were Louis Seeburger, George M. Duy, William Hall and John C. Meyer.

Holding one share each were Andrew Cooper, Sevelan Wyeth, George Sankey, Marvin M. Hickcox, Thomas McCullough, William Paddock, Franklin Sankey, John J. Brake, Elias B. Sheets, R. J. Harris, Isaac C. Meyers, David W. Crossley and L. A. Burnett.

In 1867 Terre Haute and Vigo County were selected as the site for the state fair and work was begun on the new fairgrounds where the Memorial Stadium and golf course are now located. Trees and brush were cleared off for buildings and a half-mile racetrack. On Oct. 3 the fair opened to huge crowds exceeding the 1865 state fair at Fort Wayne with 46,200, the 1866 fair at Indianapolis attended by 38,000, with 55,214 paid admissions in 1867.

The Vigo County Commissioners had purchased the western part of what became the fairgrounds from Leathy and W. R. McKeen, Ann F. and Samuel McKeen, Ella McKeen, Sarah J. McKeen, H. Clay McKeen, Charles W. and Anna N. Warren for \$8,977.50.

They leased the grounds to the Agricultural Society on condition that an annual fair be held there. They stipulated that a good board fence should be erected, and that trees could only be cut down if they interfered with roadways. The fairground would revert to the county if fairs were not held yearly, and the lease was to run for 20 years. However, in 1884 the Commissioners made a new lease for another 20 years. In 1891 they again issued a new lease for 30 years.



The fall meet of 1894 saw the fastest mile ever trotted, the fastest mile ever paced, the fastest heat ever made, the fastest three heats ever made, and the fastest race ever won. These news making events brought thrills to the whole world and put Terre Haute on the map as a harness-racing center above all others with its unique four-cornered track.

# Did cotton growing ever get off ground in Honey Creek?

T. MAY 5 1985

## Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark  
Special to The Tribune-Star

An overflow crowd packed the hall of the City School House on the morning of May 10, 1862, "pursuant to a call which had been extensively circulated and especially addressed to agriculturists to take under advisement the feasibility of the culture of cotton in Vigo County."

According to the 123-year-old report, "the county was thoroughly represented in the convention, including many of its wealthiest and most substantial agriculturists and scientific notables. On the motion of Andrew McGuire, General Britton M. Harrison was called to preside as temporary chairman."

Harrison had been active in the community since 1818, serving as mayor 1839-1848, as inspector of salt for Vigo County in 1842, elected as city councilman in 1855 and again in 1858 from the Fourth Ward, in addition to being president of the Firemen's Association.

On taking the chair, the venerable public servant made some entertaining and instructive remarks concerning the early history of this part of Indiana. He went on at length about the previous efforts to cultivate cotton plants in this county. He told about seeing the Lost Creek bottoms whitened more than once with the bursting bolls of the genus "Gossypium."

Cotton was used in Vigo County long before Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin. Aunt Garry Blacksom told about when there were not more than 20 families in Honey Creek Township. She could remember when almost every farmer raised a small field of cotton, so the farmers' wives and daughters could spin and weave it into cloth. Before the invention of the cotton gin, the children were employed in picking out the seed, a slow, tedious process.

To many of the farmers present at the meeting, Harrison's remarks seemed unbelievable. The old man observed their reaction and facetiously remarked, "Maybe you question my veracity?"

He called on his old friend, Conrad Shoup, to bear witness that he had paid for the splendid farm he owned in the county from proceeds of the cotton plants grown upon it. Shoup testified to that true statement, and added that it had been a constant source of regret that he had abandoned the culture of cotton. He felt he had been the loser by that action.

Harrison pursued the subject at great length, explaining that the Northern States were wholly independent of cotton whether of our own continent or foreign governments and how that tied in with the difficulties of that time. The Civil War was in progress in 1862 when this meeting was called.

At the conclusion of his remarks, Harrison announced that a motion to organize the cotton growers association was in order. Serving on the first committee to look into the matter were the Rev. James Hook, Dr. E. B. Allen, Prof. William Clark, L. M. Meredith, Major S. H.

Potter, the Rev. Sanford Bond, Judge L. Ryce, Charles E. Hosford, the Hon. Cally Saddler and one man whose name was illegible in the original document.

The meeting then was addressed by the Hon. Alfred Cole, formerly a resident of Alabama, who had cultivated cotton and believed it could be grown in this latitude with great profit.

The committee returned from their private meeting and reported the following recommendations: That a permanent organization of three officers and a ways and means committee to be formed; that the large and well-appointed farm known as the Honey Creek Prairie Farm be rented from the owner as soon as possible, and that teams and plows be purchased and sufficient workers be employed to work the farm during the coming season; that since the season was pretty well advanced the work should start immediately; and that the committee ascertain the cost of a cotton gin and fixtures and report all of this at the next stated meeting of the association.

The report was adopted. Officers chosen included Harrison, president; George W. Canada, secretary; and Andrew McGuire, treasurer. Serving on the ways and means committee were the Hon. Alfred Cole, Dr. Solomon Jackson, the Rev. James Hook, John Jackson and L. M. Wardell.

The president of the finance committee announced that they would be pleased to receive subscriptions since a larger fund would be necessary to carry on this desirable enterprise and must be raised at once. Subscribed on the spot was the sum of \$3,750 and more was promised within a few days.

Harrison again made some pertinent remarks and predicted success before the meeting adjourned to meet in the same place May 17.

The minutes of the newly formed Vigo County Cotton Growers Association were signed by the president and the secretary. As a footnote, the secretary was "instructed to furnish copies of the minutes to The Express, The Journal, and the Cincinnati Commercial with a request that the same be published?"

What happened to this association? Did they get a crop that year? How long did the group try to grow cotton in this Wabash Valley, and exactly where was the farm in Honey Creek they used?

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# Old-time hoboes now gone from the area

*T.H. Gazette History (W.V.)*  
by Howard Stevens  
1-30-85

Community Affairs

Hoboes, tramps, bums, wobblies—no matter what you call them—they are characters out of the past and few remain.

At one time in the early 1900's, they had their own national convention at Britt, Iowa, elected a king and a queen and ate until they filled their bellies with Mulligan stew. But, with the passing of the locomotives and the tracks they rode, the tired old wanderers are down to a scraggly handful.

Most of the retired hoboes say they are too old and too tired to get back on the undercarriage of the railroad cars. Many have left the tracks to settle in missions, nursing homes and cut rate hotels.

In the old days, hoboes gathered in jungles (wooded areas along the tracks) swapped tall tales around a camp fire and shared a bottle of cheap wine. The stew they stirred contained anything they could get their hands on plus huge chunks of week-old bread.

These knights of the road answered to strange names: Scoopshovel Scotty, Ben Benson and Boxcar Myrtle French, who was

later elected a hobo queen. They often engaged in loud, loud arguments over who was the last authentic hobo. The lonely whistle of a train rushing through the night was their link to their station in life.

A man who knew and understood them best in the Terre Haute area was Bernard Riprath, a railroad detective with the Milwaukee Railroad. Riprath, who is now retired, looked over the shoulders of Wabash Valley hoboes for more than 20 years and he studied the hobo breed closely.

"The old-time hobo isn't around anymore. Most are too old to ride the rails and security people just don't let them stick around on the equipment. Riding the rails is just too dangerous," Riprath warns.

The railroad detective says visiting a hobo jungle camp was a unique experience. One of the largest hobo enclaves was located south of Terre Haute in the Springhill track region. Several railroad tracks converged in the vicinity making it an ideal location for a meeting of the clan.

"Visiting a camp was like a lesson in gourmet cooking. The cook in charge usually had a lot of

seniority and he knew what he wanted in the pot. They used a lot of wild plants—greens, dock and wild asparagus. The aroma was an invitation to dine with a menu you wouldn't forget," Riprath recalls.

Hoboes had a way of living a long time. Scotty died at the age of 87 while Benson, who became a successful artist, lived to be 84. French died at age 88 in Nebraska.

"Shed a tear. A piece of Americana has been uprooted," one hobo wailed at Benson's funeral.

Independent and fiercely competitive, hoboes ruled their rail roosts with an iron hand. They courted the press and made pronouncements on a lot of subjects they knew nothing about. They shared bummed bounty and they were masters of conning anyone in sight including themselves.

"They shared their own marking system. If they found an interesting handout, they marked the spot for other bums to follow. They would work for a handout but they preferred to just move along to the next town.

"They were an interesting breed. I remember them well," our detective friend suggests.

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Community Affairs File

*Clark, Dorothy & History (H.E.) (WU)*

# world was ... in 1873

Ts JAN 27 1985

## And that's the way the

The Terre Haute Express Weekly began its 32nd year of publication in 1873. The editor believed in printing all the news and then a little extra, something to make subscribers laugh. There were no "funny" pages or comics in those days.

Captioned "How He Handled the Flail," one story told about a young man from an eastern city who had been visiting rural friends in this vicinity. After watching a farmer thresh out a flooring of oats one morning, he asked and received permission to swing the flail a few minutes. He assured the farmer that he was perfectly familiar with the act of threshing.

"Expectorating upon his hands," wrote the editor, "the young man went at the oats, but at the first pass knocked the horn off a new milch cow that was leisurely chewing her cud in a neighboring stall. The second swing almost caved in the head of the farmer, who thought he was safe enough as long as he roosted on top of the fanning mill in the end of the barn.

### Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark  
*Special to The Tribune-Star*

"Without discovering the havoc he was making, the city arrival kept at his labors. The third blow fell upon the oats. The fourth killed a setting hen in the manger nearby. The fifth pass of the deadly weapon was the best of all, for it came around the young man boomerang fashion, and taking him under the jaw, knocked him down and thus put a stop to the work of slaughter."

According to the editor, "The

mere fact that the city thresher returned to consciousness an hour before the farmer did, allowed the former to get several miles out of town before his efforts at threshing oats were discovered by his neighbors."

In other news, it was reported that Capt. William Earle, the oldest born Terre Hautean, was spending the winter of 1873 with his family at South Abington, Maine.

Other articles of winter humor, and I quote, stated "no sunstrokes yesterday ... where are the corner roosters now? This is no time for nankeen pantaloons ... the breezes are not spice-laden ... many Terre Haute ears were frozen by the zephyrs of last evening."

Other cold weather happenings included reports of two panthers prowling around McQuilkin's three miles west of town. A large party of men devoted Sunday unsuccessfully to panther hunting in Sugar Creek township. It should be noted that the panthers of 1873 are the wildcats of modern times, both

hopefully not roaming the West Terre Haute area.

Sad reading was the news of the awful ravages of spotted fever (probably smallpox) in Crawford County, Ill.

With tongue in cheek, the editor reported the sleigh bells in Terre Haute were the size of school bells because of the great noise they made. A sleigh and a bread wagon had collided on North Fourth Street and "both went to splinters."

An eastern gentleman visiting Terre Haute was heard to remark about the horns of after dark sleighing parties. "It's a queer time to sell fish," he said. "We have 'em sold in the morning at Bawston."

Signs of spring were appearing, however, and drummers (salesmen) were selling croquet sets, etc. And yet another steamboat sank in the Wabash river.

May 8, 1873, it was reported that Architect Charles Eppinghausen had completed plans for the new residence of William Warren to be built on the northwest corner of

Community Affairs File

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Vigo County Public Library



Sixth and Deming streets. Classed as "American" style of architecture, the cost estimate was \$25,000.

The home was planned as a two-story with basement, 40 by 48 feet, with the rear building 28 by 38 feet. A tower rising from the center of the front would contain a vestibule on the first floor, a dressing room on the second floor, and another room and gallery on top of that.

During the Scottish games at the Fairgrounds on the 4th of July, Robert Andrews received the first prize for vaulting 6 feet, 4 inches, the highest vault ever made in the United States.

The furor over the new paint on Terre Haute's fire hydrants was explained by the item that stated, "And now the little fat green fire plugs begin to look familiar."

Summer time was hot and dusty in the city. Daily sales of the Terre Haute Ice Co. averaged 18,000 pounds. It took 60 loads of the large wagon tanks to keep the dust down on Main Street each day.

Some unusual names noted on

Wabash river barges included Logger-head, Dead-head, Dead-beat, Black Warrior, Raven and Old Dad.

In August 1873, it was reported that "the laziest man in the world lives at Terre Haute. He loafes around the artesian well and hires a small boy to hold his nose while he drinks the water."

Also in that month, John McKenzie built a stone wall costing \$2,000 at the Col. Hudson's residence. He built well, because this wall still encloses the property of the Woman's Department Club at the southwest corner of Sixth and Oak streets.

Mr. Fosbrook, a veteran of the War of 1812 who lived on North Eighth Street, invented a combination artificial leg which was patented in 1873.

The city was growing because a street extension notice was advertised. Eighth Street was to be extended north from Lafayette Street to Scott Street (now Eighth Avenue). The width was specified as 65 feet.

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VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

# Traveling 'Army Road'

## Valley's covered bridges link eras

TS OCT 20 1985

The earliest settlements in Vigo County were along the Wabash River or upon the banks of the creeks that flowed into the river. Waterways then were the only routes of travel.

The pioneer settlements on Honey Creek and Prairie Creek, known later as Prairieton and Middletown, were both on or near the trail followed by William Henry Harrison and his army on their way to the Battle of Tippecanoe, a route later called "The Army Road."

This was the first of Vigo County's roads, the one used by those traveling from Vincennes to Fort Harrison and on to the Indian town at the mouth of the Tippecanoe River. Now we know it as the Prairieton Road and the Lafayette Road.

After Vigo County was established in 1818, one of the first acts of the new county commissioners was to make plans and let contracts for bridges over streams that Harrison's army had been compelled to ford or ferry.

These first bridges were primitive culverts. The first one of any size, the one over Honey Creek on the Prairieton Road, was built in 1821 by Greene and Mallory at a cost of \$275. In 1822 the first bridge was built over Otter Creek by Robert Graham for about \$300. These primitive bridges were followed by covered bridges.

Covered bridges are definitely Early American. The first American bridge patent was issued Jan. 21, 1797, to Charles W. Peale,

### Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark  
Special to The Tribune-Star

the famed portrait painter of George Washington, for a covered bridge built eight years later.

In the days when our country was young, the farmer was carpenter and builder. A man who knew his wood when it stood in the forest, he felled his own timber, seasoned it and hewed the logs himself.

He knew which wood was appropriate for its different uses — cedar for fence posts, chests and closets; black gum for plowshares; apple for saw handles; oak for building and joining; pine for furniture and floors; hickory for barrel hoops; and chestnut for cooorage.

The pioneer went by the sayings of his ancestors: "If you'd have your timbers lay, hew them out in March or May. When the moon is new to full, timber fibers warp and pull."

Early settlers believed that bridges were covered for the same

reason that women wore petticoats, "to protect their underpinnings."

Although the first pioneer never saw one, the covered bridges are just old enough to be an important link in American history. They seem to mark the time between the horse and buggy and the automobile.

Two types of covered bridges were built in this area, depending on the supply of yellow poplar or tulip poplar trees. Major Ogden of the U.S. Army Engineers, was the government supervisor here for the National Road, which was surveyed through Vigo County in 1834. Workmen reached Terre Haute in 1837.

Under his supervision, substantial bridges were built across the larger streams. More than half a million dollars was spent in Indiana on bridges alone, most of them covered bridges.

One long covered bridge spanned Lost Creek at what is now 19th and Wabash. It was painted bright yellow. Later Lost Creek was rechannelled to empty into the Wabash River north of the city instead of south.

Before the Civil War, this bridge was removed to Otter Creek at Markle's Mill to replace an older bridge there. In 1838 there was a red-painted covered bridge on the National Road, which spanned Sugar Creek west of Macksville or West Terre Haute.

Few people realize that Indiana had many covered wooden bridges on its early railroads. The develop-

ment of rail lines in Indiana occurred in the 1850s, as compared to covered wagon bridges, which were in use as early as the 1830s.

Historian George E. Gould said railroad bridges reached their peak in popularity and in number by 1880. The last railroad covered bridge in use was "Old Nellie," which until 1930 carried trains over the east fork of the White River in Greene County.

In his book, "Indiana Covered Bridges Through the Years," Gould mentions some 25 railroad bridges and later research added more. The first covered bridges on railroads reaching Indiana were built by Stephen Daniels, father of the famous "J. J." He used the Long truss. The Burr arch truss was used whenever possible by the Kennedy family and J. J. Daniels, our two most prolific builders. They hated to pay the fee on the Howe patent as well as the metal straps holding the ends of the braces.

However, Daniels on occasion was forced by competition to use the Howe plan. Also, the Kennedys used Howe trusses when they came west in 1884 to build the 600-foot Old Nellie bridge. This truss used five vertical rods per panel, with the inner and outer rods noticeably heavier than the inner three.

The number of covered bridges built on Indiana railroads is difficult to estimate because records would belong to private railroad companies. They were built as cheaply and as rapidly as possible in the early days, and the switch to stronger iron structures began in the 1870s.



# It's our duty to improve on what forefathers built

Ts APR 22 1985

History (W.U.)  
Over the years, the changes wrought in Terre Haute and Vigo County have been many in number, severe in effect, and often, mind-boggling in physical aspects. Some have occurred over a period of many years, others have taken a relatively short time.

In the last category, the impact of fires fit in a time span that is extremely short. Of long-term duration are the decline of the rail, coal and trucking industries.

Years ago, farmers and farming dominated the economy of the area. Industry was a small factor, and the professions played a very small part. In the latter category, doctors and lawyers often traded their services for produce or animals from the farm, or a new set of harnesses or a buggy top; even if a doctor or lawyer had a tax-shelter farm he or she would take a pig or a few chickens in exchange for medical treatment or a divorce.

A major change occurred in Indiana and western Indiana in 1817. Sullivan County was surveyed out of Knox County, which comprised most of southwest Indiana. In the new Sullivan County was the present Vigo and parts of Parke, Vermillion, and Knox counties. Vigo County was formed in 1818, with the first southern boundary three miles north of the present line. The new county included some of Clay. In 1819 the southern boundary was moved to its present location. In 1821, Parke County was formed.

The first bridge across the Wabash was opened in 1846 as a mere trestle with planks nailed across the timbers. The present bridge was opened in 1902.

In the 1860s the draw of the bridge (the



## Main Street

Richard Tuttle, who retired from The Tribune-Star in 1983, is a walking compendium of Terre Haute's history.

By Richard C. Tuttle  
*Assistant Editor Emeritus*

higher portion of the bridge over the river channel to allow for boat passage) collapsed. The steamer "Crescent" hit one of the pilings of the new bridge, and a portion of the bridge collapsed.

The National Road (U.S. 40) was surveyed in the 1830s and was known as the Cumberland Road. Portions of the road were privately owned, and usually there was a corduroy surface over low spots. In the privately owner stretches, a toll was charged; the fee depended on the size of the vehicle.

The people of these early years experienced changes occurring more rapidly and more severe than we do. They coped, met the challenge and went about the business of building a community, county and state. Most of the latter has been done for us, perhaps not to our satisfaction but our concern now is to improve, not found and build.



# Looking back at the week ahead...

*History (TH)*  
Compiled by Helen J. Gowell  
Special to The Tribune-Star

## 50 years ago this week

Viola Sherman, 116 Brown Ave., was burned to death and her home destroyed by fire.

Neighbors noticed the Sherman house was ablaze and telephoned the alarm. When firefighters arrived they found the roof and ceiling already caving in.

Mrs. Sherman had been employed by Ed Utz to make potato chips that were sold by Utz and others. The investigation showed the gasoline stove used by Sherman to make the chips had exploded and sprayed gasoline through the house and on victim's clothes, causing the fire.

☆☆☆

The Ferguson Hill St. George Episcopal Church was destroyed by fire causing approximately \$3,000 in damages.

☆☆☆

Leona Brown, alias Mary Martin, Indianapolis, was arrested during a raid at the home of Pearl Evans. Police were looking for a suspect in the killing of a deputy sheriff in Bloomington, Ill. Brown/Martin was turned over to Jefferson County, Ky., officials where she was wanted on a felony charge.

☆☆☆

Homer Lee Fagg, Seelyville, was killed while walking alongside an automobile on U.S. 40 East.

☆☆☆

Harry Lane was fatally injured when he was hit by an automobile as he stepped from a street car at 19th Street and Wabash Avenue.

☆☆☆

Ernest Long, Harry Polgnee and Orville Fox narrowly escaped death when they were overcome by shellac and varnish fumes while working inside a large vat at the Terre Haute Brewery.

*Community Affairs File*  
☆☆☆  
Cora Stelle, former Terre Haute school teacher convicted of stealing \$25,000 in bonds from the state teachers' retirement fund, was denied parole from the trustees of the state women's prison.

Ts FEB 3 1985

## 25 years ago this week

The Terre Haute local of the American Federation of Teachers passed a resolution urging the Vigo County Council to reconsider its action against the Vigo County Planning Commission.

After the council had turned down the request for money for the commission a third time, the commission took the matter to court, by filing a mandate against the County Council.

The teacher's union asked the council to appropriate the funds so the commission could start the work it had been chosen to do.

A resolution, presented to Everett Brannan Sr., council president, stated, "Planning is overdue by about 40 years, and Terre Haute is paying dearly for its past negligence: our blighted areas, abandoned factories, low wages, unemployment and general stagnation [are] the price. This matter concerns every resident of Vigo County, because we are one community and it is evident that effective planning today must be at least countywide."

☆☆☆

Charles E. Bottle was apprehended and returned to the Federal Penitentiary within four hours after he wandered away from a work detail just south of the prison grounds.

☆☆☆

Sen. John F. Kennedy was the guest speaker at the Wabash

Valley Lecture Series at the Indiana State Teachers College Union Building.

☆☆☆

Dr. Ernest M. Weber was named executive director of research and development of the local Pfizer Co.

## 10 years ago this week

A finding of justifiable homicide was handed down from the coroner's office, following an inquest into the death of William Lamb.

The official report, released by Coroner Robert Burkle and Deputy Coroner George Kearn, indicated that the cause of death was a wound in the back of the head.

They reported that the wound was a splinter or fragment of metal, either a piece of metal from the youth's car or a fragment of ricocheted bullet.

In neither case was the wound a result of direct bullet fire.

Lamb's death followed a high-speed chase, after he reportedly ran a stop sign at 25th Street and Franklin Avenue.

☆☆☆

Local officials termed President Ford's \$25.3 million budget for flood control and navigation projects as a good step forward, but added they hoped more money would be allocated for navigation so work could begin on the Wabash River.

☆☆☆

Richard G. Landini, academic vice president of the University of Montana, was named president of ISU by the university's board of trustees from more than 300 applications for the position.

☆☆☆

More than 3,000 area residents received computer printouts indicating their best matches for establishing a car pool to and from work.

Community Affairs File

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# Looking back at the week ahead...

Community Affairs File  
DEC 29 1985

By Helen J. Gorrell  
Special to The Tribune-Star

## 50 years ago this week...

Burns sustained early in the day proved fatal to Mrs. Ollie Ostermiller, 75, 316 N. Third St. Ostermiller was burned when her clothes were ignited by a cigarette. Edward Ostermiller, her husband, was burned on the hands when he tried to extinguish the flames.

☆☆☆

Four people were seriously injured when the automobile in which they were riding was struck by the Big Four passenger train No. 31 at the Third Avenue Crossing. It was believed that the driver of the car was blinded by heavy snow which was falling at the time of the accident.

## 25 years ago this week...

Max P. Gabbart, superintendent of Terre Haute City Schools, was named acting superintendent of the Vigo County School Corp. under the reorganization program which went into effect Jan. 1, 1961. The announcement was made by the seven-member board that had been appointed the first of December by Circuit Court Judge Herbert R. Criss. The board also announced the appointment of James Conover, Garfield High School principal as acting coordinator of educational planning, a post created to take charge of long range planning of the school corporation.

Meanwhile, two important meetings of the new Vigo County School Corp. was announced by Dr. Paul Humphrey, acting chairman of the seven-man board. Humphrey said the board would meet with Dr. Clarence Brown, Purdue University, regarding an extension of a Purdue survey covering the entire county. The university took the first survey regarding the school corporation in 1954 and a second in 1959. The second meeting was to combine the school board with the trustees in order to discuss the problems they would face when the

Community Affairs File  
new corporation took effect in 1961.

## 10 years ago this week...

Declaring a war on red tape, newly announced gubernatorial candidate Larry Conrad, a Democrat, pledged to use a system of management within the governor's office that would allow him to know when and where the bureaucratic structure was bogged down. Conrad made the statement in Terre Haute during a fly-around in six areas in Indiana.

☆☆☆

"It's a stalemate!" That's how John A. Scott, new president of the Vigo County Commissioners, described the status of a controversy with county judges over courtroom space. The judges would neither accept nor reject the latest proposal made by commissioners. Scott, Harry Brentlinger and Frank Kaperak. The three met with judges C. Joseph Anderson, Charles McCrory and Harold Bitzegaio to present the offer. It was a compromise offering the first floor location in the court house and one on the fourth floor. Previous offers were to put both sites on the fourth floor, to accommodate the newly formed Vigo County Court.

☆☆☆

Direct city control of the Hulman Municipal Airport was relinquished by the Terre Haute City Council with the establishment of an Airport Authority.

The resolution calling for the establishment of the authority was approved unanimously by the council members at a special meeting called for the reading of the resolution.

The Airport Authority changed the airport from being the sole responsibility of the city to a joint city-county responsibility. Both the Vigo County Board of Commissioners and the Vigo County Council gave their approval to the Airport Authority plan in a meeting of those two groups with Mayor William J. Brighton, Airport Superintendent Ray Fuller and the board of Terre Haute Aviation Commissioners.

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## Good things about Terre Haute

# Terre Haute today much better than its 'good old days'

Ts JUL 12 1984

History (T.H.)

Community Affairs File

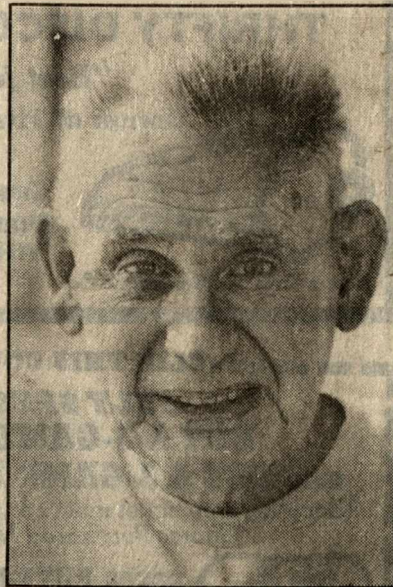
By Herman F. Royer  
Special to The Tribune-Star

I agree wholeheartedly with Agnes Brodie in her appraisal of Terre Haute being a better place to live now than in the past. I'm 70 years old and I don't think the so-called "good old days" nostalgically recalled by a few of the old timers was all that great.

My memories are of religious intolerance, KKK, Jim Crow, segregation, labor exploitation, poverty, people packed on Green Bug street cars like cattle, smells from packing houses, backyard privies, raw sewage, dirt streets that were muddy and dusty, mosquitoes in swarms that made the warm summer evenings miserable and malaria prevalent.

Most homes lacked indoor plumbing with widespread use of wells for water. We had gas lights in homes, electric power that failed with the first sound of thunder and carbon street lights about two blocks apart with their dim blue arc of brightness that people referred to as lightning bugs.

We always had the smoke and air pollution from the burning of bituminous coal. Soot was everywhere to spot clothes. Steam locomotives belched smoke and hot ash. Plant smoke stacks poured out dirty, sulphurous black smoke that at times became so thick people coughed like they were choking in the filthy air. We had burning dumps and garbage.



HERMAN ROYER  
"Whole new ball game"

The Wabash River was putrid with raw sewage and smelled to high heaven. Mosquitoes bred in the bottom lands and many marshy areas around the city limits by the millions. Bedbugs, cockroaches and rats were an accepted way of life by many with a much lower rate of sanitation than now-a-days. The westside red light district was taken for granted. Terre Haute was called a one-street town with most businesses crowded along Wabash Avenue from Third to 14th Street. We had no air conditioning back then and summer heat prostration was

See "Good things," Page E2



## Good things. Continued from Page E1

common. More than 90 percent of the products now available in our stores never existed. High weeds were common in late summer when hand mowers and sickles were the only grass tools. Most homes had heating stoves and few had storm windows or insulation. Many didn't even have storm windows or door screens.

Clothing was cheap, yes, but of poor quality with high shrinkage upon laundering. Nearly every family used ice in an icebox for refrigeration. Horse manure littered the streets. Homes were not kept up nearly as well as we see them now. Painting and repairing were very infrequent. There were no shopping centers or malls. Money was in short supply for most people and very few

could pay cash, so credit was the established means of buying and selling. One dollar down and a dollar per week became a way of life among the laboring class.

Illiteracy was quite common with the large percentage of young people high school drop-outs. The average work week was about 54 hours with \$15-\$18 for men and \$8-\$10 for women as take-home pay. No social security, pensions, etc. No paid vacations, health benefits, insurance or unemployment compensation for the workers. It was a work-or-don't-eat society with sharper defined class social pattern than at present. Intolerance was accepted grudgingly but seldom breeched. We had a "stay in your place" style of living, with

fear and respect for superiors. A lot of it has washed away and been eroded by the passage of time and a new breed of people who are more worldwide through wars, travel and better communication. Even politicians and management now realize that with more and better educated people it's a whole new ball game.

Definitely, yes! Terre Haute is a better place to live now than in yesteryear. We must realize, however, that it's going to cost a lot more money and time to deep it this way with more employment opportunities and input by those in management and those possessing wealth. I merely grazed over yesteryear as I remember it.

Community Affairs File

# landscape in 1812

T: DEC 29 1985

## Gen. Harrison misread

Community Affairs File

*HISTORY - WV. CLARK, DOROTHY*  
The greatest misstatement of the year was made by Gen. William H. Harrison when he wrote in 1812 that "the frontier never enjoyed more perfect repose."

In fact, the particular portion of the frontier known as Fort William Henry Harrison, located just north of the present city of Terre Haute, was certainly not enjoying "perfect repose."

Frequent Indian alerts were causing nearby settlers to move into the fort for protection 173 years ago. Finally, on Sept. 4, 1812, the Indians attacked the fort. The attack resulted in the Battle of Fort Harrison, one of the last battles of the War of 1812.

The previous year had been a time of strange happenings. Early in September 1811, a comet appeared in the northern skies,

### Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark  
*Special to The Tribune-Star*

passing across the country and disappearing in the south later in the year. Less enlightened folks looked on this event as an ominous forerunner of terrible misfortunes to come.

On Sept. 17, 1811, a beautiful cloudless day, occurred an eclipse of the sun. The contrast between bright sunshine at noon and almost total darkness before the sun reappeared at 3:30 p.m. afforded a grand sight for astronomers. But the phenomenon alarmed the settlers of the Wabash Valley.

About Oct. 1, a convicted prisoner awaiting execution in Virginia pretended he had experienced a revelation foretelling the destruction of one-third of mankind by June 4, 1812. A young lawyer saw a way to make some money from this sensational prediction and proceeded to publish a pamphlet on the subject with drawings illustrating the horrible sights of the calamities to come. This popular publication enjoyed an immense circulation

across the Midwest.

Nov. 7, 1811, the Battle of Tippecanoe brought grief to many families as word was received of the death or wounding of relatives or close friends.

The violent earthquake of the Mississippi Valley occurred Dec. 15 and Dec. 16. It was the most disastrous ever recorded in the United States.

Next was the theater fire at Richmond, Va., at Christmas time. It killed more than 70 people. A capacity crowd either died in the fierce flames or were crushed to death trying to escape. This tragic news spread across the country and kept alive the rumors instigated by the convict.

The unmistakable evidence of an approaching Indian war alarmed all the people, and by the end of

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1811 the climate of gloom and doom was universal.

The building of the first steamboat west of the Alleghenies was the one bright note in that year. The "New Orleans" was built at Pittsburgh and launched on the Ohio River. This wood-burning steamer took 70 hours to make the 600-mile trip to Louisville. Woodyards were non-existent at that early time, and constant delays were necessary while dead trees were chopped down and cut into fire wood.

Two coal beds were discovered near Louisville, and the owners decided to dig coal and load the vessel before continuing on to Natchez, Miss., where the boat would be stationed between trips to New Orleans.

Settlers along the river were terrified of the new invention speeding along without visible means of locomotion. When the boat arrived in Louisville on a quiet moonlit night, the extraordinary sound of the pent-up steam escaping from the valves produced a general alarm. Everyone got out of bed to see what new catastrophe had occurred. Most Kentuckians believed the comet had fallen in the river. What the Indians thought about the first steamboat was anyone's guess.

Because of low water the boat was delayed three weeks before the voyage was resumed. Narrowly escaping the earthquake, the steamboat finally reached Natchez the first week of January 1812.

And that's how it was 173 years ago this week.

## scope over the years

# Main Street has lost some of its

T s APR 4 1985

Main Street is not a thoroughfare through a town, but a state of mind. It is true that the street through a community, quite often a state or federal highway, on which the town's major businesses were located was called Main Street by practically everyone. It may have had a name, such as Wabash Avenue here, Washington Avenue in Indianapolis — it's still Main Street.

As such, most of the major events in town occur on Main Street — or "in" Main Street. We recall the biggest fires in town as being on Main Street: the Lederer-Feibelman fire, a department store blaze of some magnitude; the Lederer fire, another department store; the Tune Bros. fire at Fifth and Main streets.

A fire at Levinson's women's specialty shop, at Sixth-and-Half and Main streets, caused damage in stores on both sides. A fire in the building at Seventh and Main streets involved the following businesses: David's, Hook's Drug Store, Readmore and Willis Appliances. All of the businesses later moved to other locations.

Bigger fires occurred in the hominey mill, the grain elevator about 19th and Maple streets; Pickett's Steak House; and Commercial Solvents (now IMC), which included several explosions.

Not all fires occurred on Main Street.

Not too many years ago, there was a fire in the Sycamore Building. The high-rise towers on the ISU campus, on North Eighth Street, have had fires on the upper floors prior to being converted



### Main Street

Richard Tuttle, who retired from The Tribune-Star in 1983, is a walking compendium of Terre Haute history.

By Richard C. Tuttle  
Assistant Editor Emeritus

to instructional facilities, rather than dormitories.

One downtown fire is recalled

periodically, the St. Benedict Church fire which left the walls standing and little else. The parishioners rebuilt the church, except for the dome. The dome was the highest structure in the city at that time.

A fireman lost his life in the Haven-Geddes fire, which was the most disastrous fire in the city at that time. The memorial fountain was erected at Fifth and Main streets, and later moved to the City Hall plaza.

Business, financial events and most of the legal events occurred on Main Street. With ISU being close to Wabash Avenue, much of our educational and cultural life occurs "in" Main Street.

Much of Main Street has lost its scope

over the past few years. The loss has been due to lack of vision, of risk, of fortitude. Those shortcomings still continue.

☆☆☆

Naturally, when writing about events and people in the past, some events and some people will be unintentionally omitted. We overlooked Dr. Frank Wiedemann, who practiced medicine here for over 50 years. He was a world traveler and spoke of his travels to various groups. He also spent many months in the Panama Canal Zone during construction of the canal, and wrote a definitive paper on his observations and thoughts, both in the health field and political.



# A Christmas to remember

History (TH)

T: DEC 19 1985

By  
Dick  
Tuttle

Community Affairs File

Remember when downtown streets were decorated with Christmas decorations and lights? And a parade to welcome Santa Claus the Saturday after Thanksgiving? And when the shopping centers were built, the parking lot light standards were decorated?



TUTTLE

Main Street was decorated from Third to 14th streets, and Sixth and Seventh from Ohio to Cherry streets. Sponsor of the entire program was the Merchants Association, who paid a fee based on the front footage of each store. Not all stores paid the fee, and contributions were made by local business and industry.

Years ago, Christmas decorations were in store windows and on store fronts. The Fread Decorating Co. decorated the store front with garland, lights, wreaths and bows.

Most windows were bright and sparkly, many with Christmas trees and wrapped gifts. The large department store's big window was full of toys, including electric trains circling the trees, and Santa Claus and Mrs. Santa Claus mannequins and elves, some animated, busy getting ready for Christmas.

The big windows were in Root's, Herz (later Aldens), Meis, Sears, Penney's and Schultz. Albert Light installed many of the Christmas decorations at Root's.

A decorated tree was installed in the center of Eighth and Ohio — 20 to 25 feet high. It was decorated with silver and gold garland, big, brightly colored balls and lights.

On the morning of Christmas Eve, baskets were distributed from a platform at the foot of the tree. One of the high school bands played Christmas music — if the weather permitted. This was a joyous occasion.

Baskets were purchased with funds raised by The Tribune-Star, as has been the custom for more than 60 years. There were some small toys and candy for the children. Of course, Santa was there, giving the presents away, and it was usually the Root Store

Santa on hand.

The department stores had big toys areas, with dozens of dolls, electric trains, sleds, coaster wagons and bicycles taking the most space. The stores had Santas, and Mother had to be very careful where she took Mary and Johnny (and perhaps Joe and Ann and Mike) — or the questions about Santa couldn't be answered to the satisfaction of those youngsters.

Favorite toys then were dolls, dishes, doll houses, doll furniture and clothes for the girls; and wagons, sleds, electric trains, Buddy L trucks, wind-up trucks and trains, and Erector sets. No battery-operated toys, no computers, no space toys. No matter what we got, it was great. We even appreciated the clothes, as long as there were a couple or three toys. Yes, Christmas then was almost as hectic, but the shopping was done in one area — uptown by street car or bus, home the same way. We realize now how really simple it was then.

Tuttle is a retired assistant editor of The Tribune-Star.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

# When Wabash Ave. was 80 feet wide...

Wabash Avenue was Terre Haute's principal business street 90 years ago. It was more than 80 feet wide and paved with brick. Limestone paving blocks from nearby quarries were used to pave the sidewalks. Artificial stone (as concrete was called in those days) was becoming popular for the sidewalks in front of the fine mansions on Seventh, Sixth, Fifth, Cherry and Ohio streets near downtown.

Public transportation was furnished on 20 miles of street car lines. Even the great Terre Haute races or Barnum's circus couldn't draw crowds so huge that the electric cars weren't able to clear the grounds and speed the people back to their homes in 10 or 15 minutes.

The city was proud of its crematory 90 years ago. It turned all city garbage into clean ashes — anything from a dead horse to a barrel of liquid slop. It was located near the west end of the Wabash River bridge.

The Wabash River traffic had slowed down considerably 90 years ago, but corn was still being hauled in to the huge Hudnut Co.'s mills here, the largest in the world. Begun in 1852 and incorporated in 1886, the mills employed 350 men

## Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark  
Special to The Tribune-Star  
Community Affairs File

in the manufacturing of white corn goods using 22,000 bushels of corn a day. Products were shipped all over the world. B.G. Hudnut, president, also owned mills at Pekin, Ill., and Mt. Vernon, Ind.

Bement, Rea & Co., wholesale grocers, had moved into new quarters at Eighth and Wabash and Eighth and Cherry streets. Their trade included western and southern Indiana and eastern Illinois.

Hoberg, Root & Co., the oldest dry goods store in the city, was originally founded in 1856 by Rice, Edsall & Co., and later by Max F. Hoberg, Lewis B. Root and Alfred Hoberg who retired in 1894.

Situated at 30-32 N. Sixth St. and 518-520 Wabash Ave. in 1893, they were planning the larger Root Store on Wabash Avenue, between Sixth and Seventh streets.

The Havens & Geddes Co. was an outgrowth of the old Buckeye Cash Store. This department store at 500-506 Wabash was to suffer a disastrous fire in 1898.

Herz Bazaar was 26 years old 90 years ago, the largest exclusive ladies' furnishings store in Indiana. Located at 602-606 Wabash, it was owned by A. Herz.

Myers Brothers secured a 10-year lease on the entire building at the southwest corner of Fourth and Main to expand their department store. Previously occupying only a small part of the building, Emil and Marx Myers began the business in 1880.

Pixley & Co. began business here in 1878 as one of the several stores owned by the Owen, Pixley & Co. of Utica, N.Y. In 1885, however, the firm dissolved, and the Terre Haute store was operated by George H. Greenman. The new firm of Henry D. and George W. Pixley operated about 20 other clothing stores in leading cities across the country. They were the originators of the "one price" idea, which became very popular.

Located at 512-514 Wabash, a few years later they would take Samuel C. Budd as store manager. He had managed the A. C. Bryce store since 1888.

Goodman & Hirschler, 410 Wabash Ave., began business in 1871 offering merchant tailoring, gents' furnishings and clothing. Originally established by Leopold Goodman Sr., the business was run 90 years ago by Leopold Jr. and Simon A. Hirschler.

The largest and most important industry in Terre Haute 90 years ago was the Terre Haute Car Manufacturing Co. which employed 1,000 men. It built railroad cars, wheels, forgings, castings machinery and architectural iron works, the largest in the country.

Established in 1867 and incorporated in 1871, they were located at the southeast corner of 10½ and Crawford Streets. Officers were James Seath, president; Lewis J. Cox, vice president; John S. Cox, secretary; and Robert S. Cox, general manager.

One of the largest dry goods stores in the city 90 years ago was Kleeman Dry Goods Co., 601-605 Wabash Ave., established in 1890 by Samuel and Phillip S. Kleeman.



TUESDAY

# Outlook

ON LOCAL SCENE

T DEC 30 1980

(Entire Page)

Community Affairs File

## The city in 1980...

History (WV)

### New administration makes headlines

By BRYAN TAYLOR  
Tribune Staff Writer

Probably the biggest change in city government during 1980 came the very first day of the new decade when Pete Chalos took the oath of office to start a four-year term as mayor.

Many of the scenes played during the 1980 drama of city government came as a result of the new cast Chalos named to run various departments.

Some of the major stories seen on the City Hall stage this year included a city challenge to the 1980 census figures, a sewage strike, increased police action involving "adult" book stores, arrests on drug-related charges, an increase in some crimes involving people and property and a new approach for the Department of Redevelopment.

In September of this year, the census bureau released its preliminary 1980 count of people in Terre Haute and that figure was 60,255, about 14 percent below the 1970 census.

Administration officials immediately questioned the accuracy of the federal population figures and began compiling their own information.

Figures gathered by the administration may be used in a lawsuit the city currently has pending in federal court.

The city is seeking an upward adjustment in the preliminary figures and a list of addresses the census bureau used in computing the local count.

Chalos has contended the census drop could cost about \$20 million in federal and state assistance during the next 10 years.

In addition to a census count, city officials were confronted with contract negotiations with city employees represented by bargaining units.

One group with whom negotiations broke down was the union representing sewage plant workers.

In July, the workers walked out when they did not have a contract with the city. That was resolved with the workers returning to work after being out for about two days.

However, in August, the sewage workers walked out again after no agreement had been reached and they stayed out through most of the month until returning to their jobs on Aug. 27, after a 20-14 vote to end the strike.

Much of the disagreement came in the area of wages, but the strike was preceded by much discussion of grievances filed against plant management.

On the police front, the local department, in cooperation with the Vigo County Prosecutor's Office, began making purchases of materials at local "adult" book stores.

Some book store clerks have been charged with distributing obscene material as a result of those purchases and their cases are expected to come to trial some time next year.

The action against the book stores was new in the city and it generated

much opinion, some in support of the police and some in favor of the stores.

Police also increased activity in the area of arrests on drug-related charges. Three major actions were conducted this year, and the latest one, on Dec. 8, saw several people facing charges of dealing in controlled substances.

The police may have been increasing their activity in some areas during 1980, but so were some of the criminals.

A marked increase was seen in the area of robberies, both at businesses and residences, and it is expected statistics will show burglaries were on the rise.

In various interviews, law enforcement authorities have attributed, in part, the rise in those crimes to the sagging economy and drug use.

Authorities also were busy this year searching for a suspect they think might be responsible for three local rapes and possibly a double homicide. A special plea for information concerning the case was made by police.

Not all of the 1980 news was tied up

income which he was not authorized to accept while he was mayor.

After some testimony in that case, the judge ruled not enough evidence had been presented on central elements in the alleged crime to let the case go any further — and the charge against Brighton was dismissed.

Not every action taken by the administration during 1980 will be remembered as a "major" news event, but much of what was done on a day-to-day basis affected many residents.

Some of the departmental work done in City Hall during 1980 included:

**•PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT** — Some revenues were up in the department partly as the result of increased fees and increased usage. Work was started on renovation of the Spencer F. Ball Park and efforts were initiated to obtain federal money for renovation of two city pools, Fairbanks Park and Voorhees Park. Also, the Police Department increased patrols of Deming Park in a crackdown on alcohol and drugs in the park.

**•TRANSIT SYSTEM** — This year saw implementation of an operating budget for the bus system, something that did not exist when the Chalos administration took over. The system also saw a temporary cutback from half-hour runs to hourly service when the future of federal operating money was not certain. A fee increase for the system also was proposed, but no action is expected until 1981.

**•STREET DEPARTMENT** — The city implemented a district-by-district street cleaning schedule.

**•FIRE DEPARTMENT** — Fire science training was started in the department to teach the basics of firefighting to newer department members.

**•ENGINEERING** — In cooperation with the sewage billing office, an increased effort was made to have all residences tap on to the sewer system if they were required to do so.

**•INSPECTION** — Increased activity was seen in the area of trash law enforcement. Also, the department increased its activities against junk cars and improper mobile homes.

**•THE WHOLE ADMINISTRATION** — Various city departments cooperated this summer to implement "Brush Up on Terre Haute," a citywide cleanup effort.

Much of the news from City Hall this year involved input from an active City Council, which saw the addition of three new members.

Administrative and legislative offices were not the only city branches of government to see a change this year.

City Court, under new Judge James Lewis, saw an increase in the number of cases filed in that court. Lewis developed a reputation as a tough judge in his first year on the bench.

## '80 review

in strikes, crime or census battles. Another area making 1980 city news was the Department of Redevelopment, which has taken on a new director and some new responsibilities.

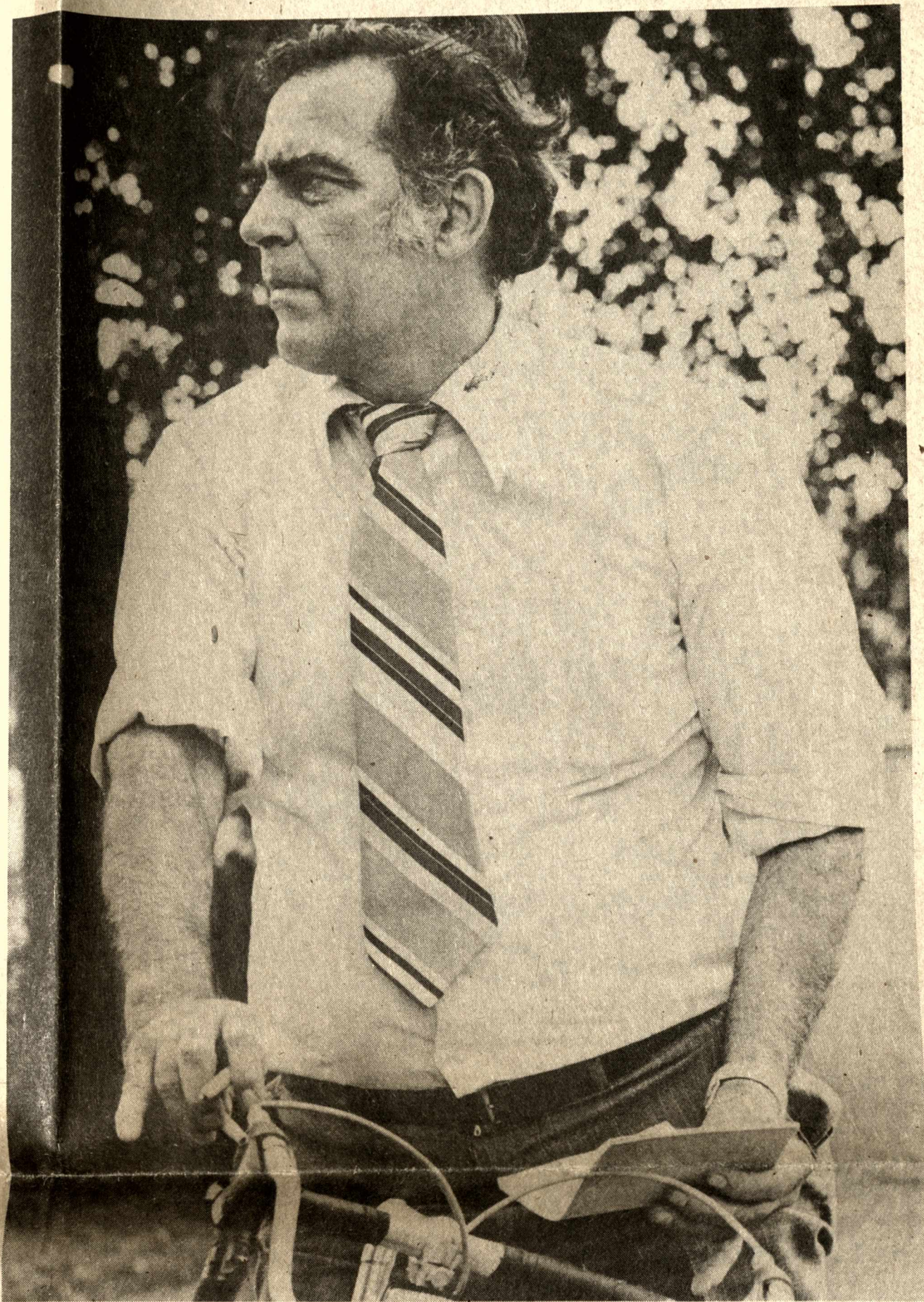
In January, the Redevelopment Commission terminated the job of Robert Payne as director of the Department of Redevelopment.

A new director, Marc Elliott, took charge of the department in April and some new areas were added to the department's responsibility.

The largest area the department took on was the development of the downtown area. Work in that field saw a private firm from Kentucky make a commitment to work toward developing a retail-office mall in the downtown area.

Much of what was done by the various city departments will carry over into next year. At the same time, 1980 saw one item carry over from the previous administration.

In January, former mayor William J. Brighton went to trial on a charge of official misconduct. He had been charged in connection with allegedly accepting 2 percent of an employee's



Terre Haute's new mayor, Pete Chalos

## The county in 1980...

### Eventful, varied year in Vigo County

By CAROLYN TOOPS  
Tribune Staff Writer

On the Vigo County scene, 1980 was an eventful and varied year.

Construction of the new \$4.95 million jail and county office building began in the spring and continued through the year.

The May primary election was termed "dull, dull, dull," but recounts of two contested Democrat races caused repercussions which are still being felt, and which had some effect on both the conduct and the outcome of the general election.

The county park and recreation department, after a 10-year search for a multipurpose park site in the northeast part of the county, finally acquired property suitable — and without the problems that had sometimes characterized previous efforts to buy land.

The Welfare Department began operating its three group homes, which replaced Glenn Home for Children. The Glenn property was sold by the county at auction in February to private interests.

But the most significant action, according to several county officials, took place late this year, when the County Council — twice! — approved a \$72,500 appropriation for the preparation of a comprehensive land use plan by an Indianapolis consulting firm.

"That's the best thing that has ever happened," according to County Commissioner Terry Brentlinger. The issue has been highly controversial for at least 15 years, but the council voted to proceed, thereby establishing a significant new policy. But not all county residents believe that comprehensive land use planning is needed or desirable. Proponents and opponents aired their views in a "town hall" type meeting in November before the historic vote was taken.

Considering the limited funds the county had available for highway work, Commissioner Jim Adams

thinks the county accomplished "a lot" to get roads in good shape.

Agreeing with both Brentlinger and Adams' assessments, Commissioner John A. Scott also pointed out that the county "is fortunate that the County Home has stayed at a high level." He added that with completion of the new county complex, local government offices will be more easily accessible to the general public.

Paul Newton, stepping up from the County Council presidency to the full-time job of county auditor Jan. 1, noted that the county is in good financial shape going into 1981.

"There's enough money to provide for elections in 1982, and also for moving into the new jail/office building complex," Newton stated.

But another "sign of the times," the filing of lawsuits between and among units of government, doesn't please Newton. The County Council was involved in mandate action for the second straight year over salary increases for court personnel. The council lost.

Now the Hulman Field Airport Authority is seeking a declaratory judgment in an effort to establish, once and for all, its power over its own budget. Welfare department employees, in another suit, seek salary increases which the council denied in 1980.

The lengthy and complicated recount procedures involving Dexter L. Bolin Jr. and Judge Harold J. Bitzegaio for the Superior Court Division 1 nomination and William D. Roach and David Butts for the 49th District House seat dominated Courthouse conversation for months.

The need for updating Indiana's election laws and for better instruction of precinct election workers became obvious, observers noted, as the recount dragged on.

The Nov. 4 general election held some surprises, with the Republicans capturing the Division 1 judgeship, as Deputy Prosecutor Michael H. Eldred won, defeating incumbent

Bitzegaio, who had been declared winner of the primary following the recount. The GOP also held on to the important office of county clerk, as Ruel F. Burns Jr. defeated veteran Democrat George A. Schoffstall, who is currently serving his second term as county treasurer.

The Butts story, meanwhile, continues. Though Butts, who served as street commissioner during the first nine months of Mayor Pete Chalos' administration, was declared the winner over Roach in the recount and defeated his GOP opponent Fred Wilson, he is not yet assured that he will get to keep his House seat, pending further action on the question of his residency in the 49th District by the full House of Representatives Jan. 7.

A Select Committee which reviewed Butts' residency several weeks ago has recommended that he not be seated and a special election be held between Roach and Wilson.

The aftermath of the Democrat primary also saw former Circuit Court Judge C. Joseph Anderson firmly grasp control of the county party organization, replacing veteran Leonard Conrad as chairman.

While 1980 marked the beginning of construction of the new county buildings (after several years of planning), it also marked considerable questioning whether the jail was big enough.

As matters stand now, both parts of the complex are being built according to specifications adopted more than a year ago. There are no plans at present to add additional floors to either or both parts of the new facility.

In other county construction, the Hulman Field Airport Authority currently has under way a \$1 million expansion project (terminal building and parking facilities) financed by a bond issue, along with several airport improvement projects (runways, lighting, snow removal and so on) funded mainly with federal moneys.

Republican  
winners  
in  
general  
election

Mike Eldred



Ruel Burns

New  
county  
Democrat  
chairman

C. Joseph Anderson

Vigo  
County's  
commissioners

Jim Adams



Terry Brentlinger



John Scott

Vigo  
County  
Council  
president

Paul Newton

Terre  
Haute  
City  
Court  
judge

James Lewis

Recount,  
residency  
questions  
for 49th  
District

David Butts



William Roach



Fred Wilson